

As a below named inventor, I hereby declare that:  
My residence, post office address and citizenship are as stated below next to my name,

I believe I am the original, first and sole inventor (if only one name is listed below) or an original, first and joint inventor (if plural names are listed below) of the subject matter which is claimed and for which a patent is sought on the invention entitled: METHOD AND DEVICE FOR GUIDING AND SUPPORTING  
A THIN SHEET OR METAL STRIP

the specification of which (check only one item below):

is attached hereto.

was filed as United States application

Serial No. \_\_\_\_\_  
on \_\_\_\_\_  
and was amended  
on \_\_\_\_\_ (if applicable).

was filed as PCT international application

Number PCT/EP99/05116  
on JULY 17, 1999,  
and was amended under PCT Article 19  
on \_\_\_\_\_ (if applicable).

I hereby state that I have reviewed and understand the contents of the above-identified specification, including the claims, as amended by any amendment referred to above.

I acknowledge the duty to disclose information which is material to the examination of this application in accordance with Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, §1.56(a).

I hereby claim foreign priority benefits under Title 35, United States Code, §119 of any foreign application(s) for patent or inventor's certificate or of any PCT international application(s) designating at least one country other than the United States of America listed below and have also identified below any foreign application(s) for patent or inventor's certificate or any PCT international application(s) designating at least one country other than the United States of America filed by me on the same subject matter having a filing date before that of the application(s) of which priority is claimed:

**PRIOR FOREIGN/PCT APPLICATION(S) AND ANY PRIORITY CLAIMS UNDER 35 U.S.C. 119:**

COUNTRY (if PCT, indicate PCT)	APPLICATION NUMBER	DATE OF FILING (day, month, year)	PRIORITY CLAIMED UNDER 35 USC 119
GERMANY	198 32 925.3	22 JULY 1998	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO
			<input type="checkbox"/> YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO

I hereby claim the benefit under Title 35, United States Code, §120 of any United States application(s) or PCT international application(s) designating the United States of America that is/are listed below and, insofar as the subject matter of each of the claims of the application is not disclosed in that/those prior application(s) in the manner provided by the first paragraph of Title 35, United States Code, §112, I acknowledge the duty of disclose material information as defined in Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, §1.56(a) which occurred between the filing date of the prior application(s) and the national or PCT international filing date of this application.

**PRIOR U.S. APPLICATIONS OR PCT INTERNATIONAL APPLICATIONS DESIGNATING THE U.S. FOR BENEFIT UNDER 35 U.S.C. 120:**

U.S. APPLICATIONS		STATUS (CHECK ONE)		
U.S. APPLICATION NUMBER	U.S. FILING DATE	PATENTED	PENDING	ABANDONED

PCT APPLICATIONS DESIGNATING THE U.S.		
PCT APPLICATION NO.	PCT FILING DATE	U.S. SERIAL NO.

**POWER OF ATTORNEY:** As a named inventor, I hereby appoint the following attorney(s) and/or agent(s) to prosecute this application and transact all business in the Patent and Trademark Office connected therewith. (List name and registration number)

FRIEDRICH KUEFFNER, REG. NO. 29,482

Send Correspondence to:	<u>FRIEDRICH KUEFFNER</u> <u>342 MADISON AVENUE, SUITE 1921</u> <u>NEW YORK, N.Y. 10173</u>	Direct Telephone Calls to:
		<u>FRIEDRICH KUEFFNER</u> <u>(212) 986-3114</u>

2	FULL NAME OF INVENTOR  Kneppé	<u>Family Name</u>  <u>Kneppé</u>	<u>First Given Name</u>  <u>Günter</u>	<u>Second Given Name</u>
0	RESIDENCE & CITIZENSHIP	<u>City</u>  <u>Hilchenbach</u>	<u>State Or Foreign Country</u>  <u>Germany</u>	<u>Citizenship</u>  <u>German</u>
1	POST OFFICE ADDRESS	<u>Post Office Address</u>  <u>Theodor-Heuss-Strasse 11</u>	<u>City</u>  <u>57271 Hilchenbach</u>	<u>State &amp; Zip Code</u>  <u>Germany</u>

Combined Declaration For Patent Application and Power of Attorney (Continued)  
(includes Reference to PCT International Applications)

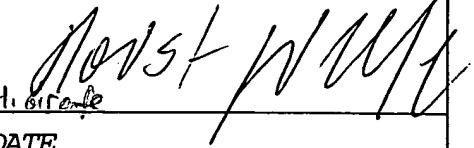
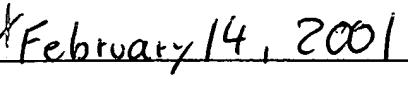
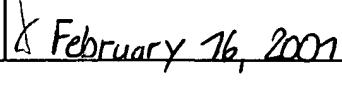
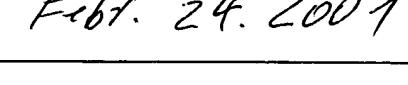
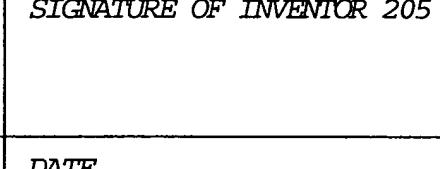
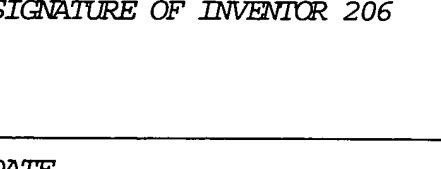
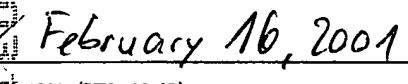
Docket No.  
**HM-388**

<b>2</b>	<b>FULL NAME OF INVENTOR</b>	<u>Family Name</u>  <u>Münker</u>	<u>First Given Name</u>  <u>Jochen</u>	<u>Second Given Name</u>
	<b>RESIDENCE &amp; CITIZENSHIP</b>	<u>City</u>  <u>Kreuztal</u>	<u>State Or Foreign Country</u>  <u>Germany</u>	<u>Citizenship</u>  <u>German</u>
<b>2</b>	<b>POST OFFICE ADDRESS</b>	<u>Post Office Address</u>  <u>Ausser dem Schlag 14</u>	<u>City</u>  <u>57223 Kreuztal</u>	<u>State &amp; Zip Code</u>  <u>Germany</u>

<b>2</b>	<b>FULL NAME OF INVENTOR</b>	<u>Family Name</u>  <u>Grafe</u>	<u>First Given Name</u>  <u>Horst</u>	<u>Second Given Name</u>
	<b>RESIDENCE &amp; CITIZENSHIP</b>	<u>City</u>  <u>Hilchenbach</u>	<u>State Or Foreign Country</u>  <u>Germany</u>	<u>Citizenship</u>  <u>German</u>
<b>3</b>	<b>POST OFFICE ADDRESS</b>	<u>Post Office Address</u>  <u>Talsperrenstrasse 3</u>	<u>City</u>  <u>57271 Hilchenbach</u>	<u>State &amp; Zip Code</u>  <u>Germany</u>

<b>2</b>	<b>FULL NAME OF INVENTOR</b>	<u>Family Name</u>  <u>Seidel</u>	<u>First Given Name</u>  <u>Jürgen</u>	<u>Second Given Name</u>
	<b>RESIDENCE &amp; CITIZENSHIP</b>	<u>City</u>  <u>Kreuztal</u>	<u>State Or Foreign Country</u>  <u>Germany</u>	<u>Citizenship</u>  <u>German</u>
<b>4</b>	<b>POST OFFICE ADDRESS</b>	<u>Post Office Address</u>  <u>Feuerdornweg 8</u>	<u>City</u>  <u>57223 Kreuztal</u>	<u>State &amp; Zip Code</u>  <u>Germany</u>

I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code, and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.

SIGNATURE OF INVENTOR 201  <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	SIGNATURE OF INVENTOR 202  <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	SIGNATURE OF INVENTOR 203  <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
DATE  <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	DATE  <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	DATE  <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
February 14, 2001  <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	February 16, 2001  <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Feb. 24, 2001  <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
SIGNATURE OF INVENTOR 204  <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	SIGNATURE OF INVENTOR 205  <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	SIGNATURE OF INVENTOR 206  <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
DATE  <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	DATE  <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	DATE  <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
February 16, 2001  <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		